

Maria Antonia Trujillo  
45402088  
Interviews in Antioquia

**Interview With Valentina (English Translation)**

**Note: Questions are highlighted in grey.**

1. Do you think of yourself as Colombian, Antioqueño/a, something else, or a combination of those?

a) Let me think, well the thing is that I was asking my friends because I told them that you were going to interview me – and all of them, well, I feel a lot more Colombian than Antioqueñan. All of them said that.

And why?

The thing is that I feel a bit different from what I am going to tell, because I imagine you do not know how things are here, how girls are here. You know what, I am going to show you so that you can see, because its an investigation. So look the girls here, people in Medellin, its very, well you go to Bogota, and things are not like that. It's very superficial like in the higher classes. Yes, in the higher classes, its very very very – all the girls are so operated, they are all super, super beautiful, very “made-up” all the time, do you know what I mean? There is too much plastic surgery.

Really?

Starting from about fifteen years old, many girls are operated – breasts, butt, nose – everything!

So is it more of a Colombian thing or Antioqueñan thing to be like that?

No, this is something that is more from Medellin and Antioquia. That's why they say the most beautiful women are from Medellin. Everyone always says that because they are like the most “made-up” – the prototype that men like – the woman that is busty, has a large butt. Here people are far too worried about appearances – well women are, men not so much. You go to Bogota, and you feel different – I go there and I am impressed, because here every woman dresses the same – like you know they look divine (beautiful), you know what I mean? You go to Bogotá and you see much more diversity. Here people are super conservative – everyone thinks the same – in Bogota it's very different – well at least people my age. I am talking about what I know. Lets say in my school, which is the Marymount, which is supposedly for girls which are very “surgery,” you know what I mean, I don't know, and all my friends, out of about ten, seven have plastic surgery. I also had plastic surgery.

Really?

Yes, here you are just pressured. All the time! And that's considering that I didn't change my breasts as much, but everyone's are like this (motions huge gestures). And all that, well they say it is because of the mafia. And its really true – because here – well its what I was telling you, you can feel the difference with the girls, - men here are so superficial. You go to Bogota and its different. It's because of that, that I say that I don't consider myself so Antioqueñan because for me it's important, but not that much. Here people, are actually so so preoccupied with that. Being Antioqueñan here is considered being super open, here Antioqueños are know as super open. The thing is that I don't know much about Antioquia. I am talking about Medellin. But supposedly, the Antioqueñan women, the ones from Medellin, are considered the most beautiful.

2. Do you consider yourself an Antioqueño/a, if so why or why not?

All that does not define how I am. I consider myself Antioqueñan but I feel that I don't identify with the prototype of how the Antioqueñan woman is. Supposedly, the Antioqueñan, there is an image that she is very beautiful, always “made-up,” very happy, and that we are very nice people, very charming, that always want to help everyone all the time, because supposedly if you compare Antioqueños to other people in the country, supposedly the other people are cold, like more calm, not as social. Supposedly people in Antioquia are the most social, they like working, they love the countryside, things like that. Well I consider myself Antioqueña, but I don't identify with the Antioqueñan prototype.

3. What does being an Antioqueño/a mean to you?

Supposedly, they are very kind, and very open people – who like meeting new people. They like socializing all the time and they are people that like working hard. Most of us really love the countryside, like farms and stuff like that, and well Antioqueños are very attached to the earth. People here are also very conservative, compared to the rest of the country and they are people of many traditions, people of the countryside, and people that are more or less rationalistic, they prefer Antioquia to the rest of the country.

4. Do you think that an ideal Antioqueñan man, woman, and family exist? Why or why not?

The man here in general, society is very machista, well not that much, but yes. Supposedly, not so much anymore, well in my generation, but in the generation of my parents, the man is the one that works, well the one that does everything, and the woman is supposedly, well like taking care of the kids more or less and “conserving” herself (taking care of herself). Because the prototype of the woman here is, like I was telling you earlier, very concerned with beauty, from the exterior part, and they also worry a lot about what other people think – far too much.

Maria Antonia Trujillo  
45402088  
Interviews in Antioquia

Because here people are like very closed-minded. Here everyone knows everything, here people are very gossipy – so people worry a lot about that. Because here you do something and a lot of people are going to know about it probably. Women are way too worried about their physical appearance, like I am telling you it is very common and men here are so superficial. I have heard men here say that they only like women here because of the physical, they are not going to focus on what a person has to offer them in terms of intelligence, or something like that, a lot of the time they don't care. To the majority, I would say that they don't care, especially the ones that are my age. There are very few- the physical part of women always comes first. And this is most of all in Medellin, because if you go to another part of the country you don't feel this.

5. Do you think that there are stereotypes about Antioqueños/as? What are they?

Does that still more or less exist?

Yes that exists a lot and too an extent I consider that this is true, because if I go somewhere else, the women are not as worried like here, where I do see women that are dressed differently, where they don't care about being a bit fat. Here if you are a little fat its like oh a nightmare, and it is. When I go to Bogota, well my Rola friends are not as concerned with that, well you see people that are much more diverse. Here on the contrary, you see that all the girls are almost all the same, they behave in very similar ways – which is how a man would want you to behave.

Like how?

Like very well behaved, very “made-up,” studying a lot, without talking too much. Like when you go out to drinking parties, well the man is always super controlling – like don't drink too much, don't dance too much, and don't shout too much. That happens a lot here, most relationships are like that here. The man always likes to control the woman a lot, and all of us, we let them and we behave in the way they want us to behave. It is like this, I see that all my friends. For all the people my age it is like that – the woman is “made-up,” all the time, and always very “decent,” without saying what you are really thinking, only really to please. Well this is only in Medellin.

But why, where does this come from?

I think this comes from about the nineties, or eighties, with the whole mafia issue, because the mafia then put women in a position where they would operate their boobs, and they would make them well, beautiful. And here there are a lot of girls that are, well, you know, expensive prostitutes.

There are many here?

Maria Antonia Trujillo  
45402088  
Interviews in Antioquia

Yes! And they are girls that many times are from good families. So they are prostitutes but more expensive ones, like much more beautiful ones, more operated, and a lot of girls, well they like being like that. Like very showy, very.

And girls from good families why?

To be liked, I don't know. To be liked by men, or something like that. This happens a lot. "Prepagos," that are high class, but of course there is also lower class ones. There isn't that many that are high class, but they exist.

6. Do you feel that you have seen a change in notions of ideal beauty in Antioquia over the last fifty years?

Yes a lot! I would say that the most radical change was during the mafia era here and they have always told us that, well in school, and everywhere. That was the moment where physical appearance began to really matter far too much. Before, it was very normal, well I imagine, during my parents time I see the photos and well you didn't have to be too skinny. Well of course that is also at a global level, that beauty is to be skinnier, but here really, it is so much more - the women that the men like here, beauty is very submitted to the beauty that the man likes.

And in school what did they tell, in history class or what (because you mentioned school)?

Not so much in history class, but in what you read, and you know that it was the moment that the mafia came, because they all wanted models, and people like that. I can just imagine that all the women wanted to be with them. I imagine, I don't know. So then the prototype of beauty in regards to women, and here in Medellin, which is super influenced by that culture, because there are still people my age that say I want to be Mafioso, and its people that are well, you know from a good family.

And is it your male friends that say that?

Well I have guy friends that say that, they are not super friends. I have heard people from good families, like well educated people, that have said to me if I don't have the money I want by the time I am 25 years, I swear I will become Mafioso.

7. This has to do with the seventh question, but what are the most significant / important / prevalent changes that you have seen in Antioquia over the past fifty years?

Well Antioquia witnessed a very violent time during that period. Right now, well its much more safe. Similarly, a lot of this stayed in our history and people think a lot

Maria Antonia Trujillo  
45402088  
Interviews in Antioquia

about this. A lot of people hate this because they suffered a lot because of it, but like I told you there are people that don't care and they say I want to be in this, and its only because of the money, they say I want to continue in this.

8. Do you think social classes exist in Colombia?
  - a. If so, how would you describe them?

Here social classes are very marked because there is a lot of inequality. And if you have money you will not usually associate with another social class. It is very difficult because you will not go to the same places, even in university; you know lets say in university there are people that you know. Society is stratified into 6 zones depending on where you live. And I know that I will not associate myself with people that don't live around here, or with people that I know will be able to do the same things as me – well, that will be able to go out to the same places as me. I don't know, it's just that those types of friendships don't happen, its very different and very separated. Well you know lets say from what I have seen, and what I perceive, all those things I tell you about pressure for women, all that is a high class thing. I think this is more common in the high class of Medellin. The version that a woman must be divine (beautiful) all the time, that she must behave really well all the time, I feel that well, in the lower class its not so much like that.

So is plastic surgery something that well, higher classes do?

Well let's say in high class women do get more operated on, but also middle class people do their breasts, it is very common, too common. And many people, it is exaggerated (it is too much). And for that you see people from many classes, but well you see a lot from high classes, with the best education in the world, and they put on these things (exaggerated gestures towards the boobs). Gigantic!

It is not in the questions, but of you don't mind me asking. You see that here there are beauty queens that have really good careers like engineers, or doctors, and I personally think, wow, these girls are so intelligent, but at the same time, there is a really superficial side to this too. So how do people accommodate both things – a really good education but at the same time, an interest in well...

Because well, I would say that all women are very interested, very much so, or at least me, in having a good career. To be able to live, well, so that my husband does not have to sustain me at any point and to have my own money. At the same time, I feel the pressure to be able to attract someone, to be liked by someone. There is a pressure in terms of beauty. You have to balance both things, you know, and for some men it may be that they are not bothered that the woman is very beautiful but dumb. A lot don't get bothered, but there is men that are bothered that the girl is, well no, they feel like they need an intelligent woman. Of course that is up to every

Maria Antonia Trujillo  
45402088  
Interviews in Antioquia

girl – the aspect of balancing the physical with intelligence. I feel a lot of pressure to be “made-up” all the time, if I am going out with a guy to put on a lot of makeup, dress up super nice, behave well, but at the same time I am very concerned about my studies, there are people which don’t care much about that. But that’s up to each individual I would say. If you want to ask me anything else let me know, I don’t care, I tell you what ever you want.

Emm, lets see. Well do you think that the beauty queens in Antioquia changed? The pressure to be perfect, do you think that comes from beauty contests or not so much?

Well, I personally don’t think so. With girls I go out with, if you ask them if they would like to be queens at any moment – I think it was more common before because for people being a queen was very popular. Lets say for me, I wouldn’t want to be queen – at the same time its because I know I am not tall and super skinny.

At the same time the beauty prototype that I look at isn’t the queen one, we look more at models and things like that. That is more common. For example, I have a friend in university, that not long ago, a really skinny one, look she is really skinny I will show you. And not long ago she did a liposuction, and she is really skinny. And I remember that she told her doctor that I want it to look like the abdomen of Sara Corrales, who is an actress, an Antioqueñan actress. A lot of girls my age would like to be like her. She is more the beauty prototype that is liked here.

### **Interview with Marinita (Translated English Version)**

1. Do you think of yourself as Colombian, Antioqueño/a, something else, or a combination of those?

Colombian and Antioqueñan, a combination of both.

2. Do you consider yourself an Antioqueño/a, if so why or why not?

Yes, because I was born in Antioquia.

3. What does being an Antioqueño/a mean to you?

Simply to have been born in Antioquia, nothing more.

4. Do you think that an ideal Antioqueñan man, woman, and family exist? Why or why not?

Maria Antonia Trujillo  
45402088  
Interviews in Antioquia

Yes. People that are very traditionalist, people that are very religious, but this was a long time ago. Those religious, traditional, polite, very kind people, hmm mostly all that, and that conserved costumes. Very “cosutmbirsta.”

Does that still exist?

No, that does not exist anymore, all that has changed now.

5. Do you think that there are stereotypes about Antioqueños/as? What are they?

No, that does not exist today. This was all lost. This changed because in Antioquia, the drug trafficking changed all the traditions in Antioquia. Those elegant, traditionalist, polite, modest, no longer exist, and this is what really symbolized the Antioquian family. With the Mafia, that changed the ideal of women completely. It was the Narcos. Today there no longer is culture; the girls nowadays study but that culture that use to characterized – coldness, you know what, in better words, now we have plastic girls. Now we have the plastic woman, the surgical woman, the woman who doesn’t have, and the woman who doesn’t have values. Now for the Antioqueñan woman it is her physical that matters, it is to model themselves – that’s the main thing for them and those principles are now lost. So the main thing was, the loss of values and principles.

6. Do you think that Antioqueñan women are the most beautiful women in Colombia? Why or why not?

No not anymore. Before, it was not about the physical, and everyone had the same possibilities. Before it was about how a woman managed that culture, those values, and that’s what made the Antioqueñan woman the most beautiful, and it allowed her to look more beautiful. She was sought after all over the world but it was because of those traditions that the woman of Antioquia had.

7. Do you feel that you have seen a change in notions of ideal beauty in Antioquia over the last fifty years?

a. If so, why do you think it has changed?

Yes! It has changed far too much, although you can now see that in the beauty contests, they are now valuing that the queens don’t have plastic surgery. All that changed because the drug trafficking (mafia) no longer has such a major part, it has been very chased now – and those values in women are now being recovered. And now in the beauty contests they are valuing girls without plastic surgery, so a natural and authentic beauty.

So it was with the mafia that that ideal changed?

Everything, the mafia changed the way of thinking about women, and society too. First people felt so important having a boyfriend that was a drug trafficker, because they would buy them jewellery, a car, because they maintained them well. These were men that were without culture, very crude, and people from a low class. Most of the mafia was from a lower, lower class. These girls felt very well but it was all because of the money, and because social classes were not measure by principles or culture, but by money.

8. What are the most significant / important / prevalent changes that you have seen in Antioquia over the past fifty years?

Traditions, there was definitely a loss in traditions. Values, the concept of the family, were lost. At first, these things were sacred, for example, at first it was scared to have lunch with your family at the same time and on the same table. It was a way to share, or to watch TV all together. Now with the demand of the market each child has his own TV in his room, his games that make him solitary, and their own Blackberry. You no longer share at the table. So technology has made us change.

9. Do you think that there are particular features that distinguish Antioqueños/as, from the rest of Colombia?

Their kindness! They are always very kind; kindness has always characterized the Antioqueño. If you go anywhere, if a person is very kind they always ask him if they are an Antioqueño. That always characterizes them. The person you can trust, the ne who knows how to give to others, the person who is willing to serve – these are all things that characterize the Antioqueño.

10. Do you think social classes exist in Colombia?  
a. If so, how would you describe them?

There are two types of social classes – so there are people that describe the social classes by their purchasing power. So they think that those that live in the Poblado and Laureles (richer, 6 and the highest on the incremental tax scale), because they live there they are higher class. But being people that have money, they don't have class, because you are born with class, even if you are poor, it's innate. Its hereditary and by family. So that's one way to understand class. There is nothing that characterizes them, and you think oh that's them, because that idea of being born with it no one can take that away from anyone – even if they are poor they continue to be high class even without money. Another concept that people have is that by having money you have class, but money will never give you class. Class is culture and it has ancestors of which one feels proud. Even if you don't have money, when



Maria Antonia Trujillo  
45402088  
Interviews in Antioquia

you start to analyze they are families if governors. Which were representatives, of people that had influence over society. So that will always be class. That is more or less what makes them different and this is maintained even though you know these are people of class. People that are born high class from their crib have a lot of respect for their family. The Mafioso is from the lower class.